

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A glow plug comprising:

a rod-shaped heating element, said rod-shaped heating element being composed of an electrically conductive ceramic material;

a carrier ring attached to said rod-shaped heating element, said carrier ring being composed of an electrically conductive material; and

a tubular casing attached to said carrier ring so as to surround said rod-shaped heating element and said carrier ring,

wherein said carrier ring has been attached to said rod-shaped heating element using a magnetic forming process as a result of which the carrier ring and rod-shaped heating element are in a plastically deformed state which is free of thermal treatment effects and scuffing.

2. (Currently Amended) The glow plug according to claim 1, wherein the tubular casing has been attached to said carrier ring using a magnetic forming process as a result of which the carrier ring and tubular casing are in a plastically deformed state which is free of thermal treatment effects and scuffing.

3. (Currently Amended) A glow plug comprising:

a rod-shaped heating element, said rod-shaped heating element being composed of an electrically conductive ceramic material;

a cylindrical carrier ring for attachment to said rod-shaped heating element, said cylindrical carrier ring being composed of a magnetically-deformable material and having an outer circumferential surface thereof being electrically insulated;

a contact sleeve for attachment to said rod-shaped heating element in an area adjacent to a connection side thereof so as to axially extend therefrom, said contact sleeve being composed of an electrically conductive material;

a tubular casing for surrounding said rod-shaped heating element, said cylindrical carrier ring and said contact sleeve, said tubular casing having been attached to said cylindrical carrier ring by a magnetic forming process so as not to physically contact said contact sleeve, and as a result of which the carrier ring and tubular casing are in a plastically deformed state which is free of thermal treatment effects and scuffing

wherein said contact sleeve and cylindrical carrier ring have been attached to said rod-shaped heating element by a magnetic forming process as a result of which the carrier ring and contact sleeve are in a plastically deformed state which is free of thermal treatment effects and scuffing, and

wherein said cylindrical carrier ring has an external diameter which is greater than that of the contact sleeve.